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#### From the Dean

Dear Friends:

As we begin the 2001-2002 academic year at the OU College of Pharmacy, we extend a warm welcome to our new faculty members. Joining the college faculty this year are eight highly qualified individuals with outstanding credentials in their respective areas of pharmacy. The college is very fortunate to have them and their roles in teaching, research, and service will certainly enhance our program as well as the student learning experience at OU.

This year, the new faculty are evenly distributed on the Oklahoma City- and Tulsa-based OU campuses. In Oklahoma City, we welcome Kimi Boedeker, Pharm.D. (OU class of 2000), Holly Hoffman, Pharm.D. (University of Illinois at Chicago, class of 1998), Jeremy Johnson, Pharm.D. (OU class of 2000), and Lourdes Planas, Ph.D. (University of Florida class of 2001). In Tulsa, welcomes are extended to Dana Carroll, Pharm.D. (Auburn University class of 1999), Doug Carroll, Pharm.D. (Auburn University class of 2000), Johnny Stephens, Pharm.D. (OU class of 1999), and Tim Murray, Pharm.D. (OU class of 2000). Additional information about each will be available in the near future on our website.

As I mentioned last time, our entering students this year are of the highest caliber and all appear ready and eager to obtain the knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes, and values that will form the basis of their careers in their chosen profession. We thank the pharmacy community for their efforts and hope that everyone will continue to recommend the profession to outstanding prospective students and to foster initial as well as continuing interest in applying to OU for their pharmacy education.

Several of you have asked about our recent communications difficulties. There has been a major campus-wide effort to restore our e-mail capabilities and to fix glitches in the technology employed. We thank you for your patience as we work diligently to get caught up in responding to your inquiries and comments.

Now that the first OU football game is in the bag, we look forward to many more wins this season, culminating in the championship game at the Rose Bowl on January 3. I hope that many of you will be able to be present at the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association [reception starting two hours before the game with Tulsa](#) on September 15. Make your plans now to stop by to visit with other alumni, faculty, students, and friends. The alumni tent will be easy to find in front of Memorial Union. Even if you are not going to the game, the pre-game ambiance is always exhilarating. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

#### College News

##### ▪ Multicultural Focus in Pharmacy

The College of Pharmacy will host a conference to promote the future of pharmacy in a multicultural society on Friday, September 7th from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Dr. Marcellus Grace from Xavier University of Louisiana, the current president of the National Pharmaceutical Association, will be the keynote speaker. Presentations will be made by College of Pharmacy faculty members Dr. Thomas Pento, Dr. Nathan Shankar, Dr. Rae Matsumoto, and Dr. Tracy Hagemann.



▪ **Sooners Conquer North Carolina**

The [victory over the North Carolina Tar Heels](http://graphics.fansonly.com/photos/schools/okla/sports/m-footbl/auto_pdf/weekly-release.pdf) on Owen Field last Saturday was the 14th straight win for the Sooners and heightened expectations for the upcoming season. The next contender, the Air Force Falcons, is currently unranked, but went 9-3 with a bowl win last year and could be a competitor with home field advantage

([http://graphics.fansonly.com/photos/schools/okla/sports/m-footbl/auto\\_pdf/weekly-release.pdf](http://graphics.fansonly.com/photos/schools/okla/sports/m-footbl/auto_pdf/weekly-release.pdf)).

▪ **Carl Lyons honored by International Pharmaceutical Federation**

Carl Lyons ('60), currently serving the College of Pharmacy as Interim Assistant Dean for Outreach Communications and Clinical Associate Professor in Tulsa, has been selected for honorary membership in the Hospital Pharmacy Section of the International Pharmaceutical Federation ([IPF](#)). Carl was cited for long standing service to the IPF, having served as North American Vice President (1982 to 1990), President (1990 to 1994) and Immediate Past President (1994 to 1998).

▪ **Congratulations Dr. Joni Beck**

Aaron Robert Beck born Monday, August 27th, was 6 lbs 14 ozs 19" long. Mom, Dad and Aaron are all doing fine. Dr. Beck is currently serving the college as Adjunct Assistant Professor.

▪ **Congratulations Dr. Tracy Hagemann**

Dr. Tracy M. Hagemann has been appointed to Governor Keating's Task Force on the Promotion of Children's Health for the State of Oklahoma. Her appointment extends to January 1, 2002.

## Alumni News

▪ **Deaconess Hospital Position for Valerie Wambach ('00)**

Valerie reports that she is currently Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator and Critical Care Clinical Specialist at Deaconess Hospital in Oklahoma City. Classmates and friends may contact her through her e-mail address at [valerie.rph@worldnet.att.net](mailto:valerie.rph@worldnet.att.net). Congratulations Valerie.

▪ **Robby Whiteley ('76) – Operations Manager for GlaxoSmithKline**

Robby Whiteley currently resides in Morrisville, North Carolina, and has held the position of Operations Manager for [GlaxoSmithKline](#) for the past 10 years. His position is within the company's state-of-the-art contact center, located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, which, as the "Customer Response Center," has grown from 14 to 90 telephone agents in the last four years and services the Philadelphia and the local campuses. Robby has responsibility for managing the Medical Information aspect of the business, which includes 29 pharmacists and 2 nurses that respond to off-label product requests from health care providers and the sales force. The total volume approximates 4000 to 5000 contacts/day, including video sales, e-mail, paper mail, outbound campaigns, and inbound phone calls.

Robby and his wife Marilyn have a son, Adam, who is in the 7th grade and described as a "sports nut," involved as a baseball pitcher and also in organized roller hockey. Marilyn is the Director for Medical Communications for PPD, also located in Research Triangle Park.

Robby proudly displays a Poison Prevention Week poster featuring Josh Heupel on his office door as a means of staying connected and so that all Tar Heel fans can reflect upon their recent competition with the Sooners

([http://graphics.fansonly.com/photos/schools/okla/sports/m-footbl/auto\\_pdf/weekly-release.pdf](http://graphics.fansonly.com/photos/schools/okla/sports/m-footbl/auto_pdf/weekly-release.pdf)).

Thanks to Robby for sending along information about his activities.



▪ **About Rebecca Rangel Johnson ('93)**

Rebecca and her husband Warren were married in 1998 and have three children and two WILD cats. She is President and co-owner with Warren of [Allergy Laboratories, Inc.](#), located in Oklahoma City. Rebecca reports that she does a lot of traveling, especially to Las Vegas, and we assume these are ALL for business purposes. Congratulations Rebecca!

**Pharmacy News**

▪ **OPhA Fall District Meetings Set**

The 2001 Fall District Meetings established by the [Oklahoma Pharmacists Association](#) (OPhA) are as follows:

Districts 1 and 2: Sunday, September 16, 6:30 P.M. – Southern Hills Marriott, Tulsa

Districts 3, 4, and 10: Tuesday, September 18, 6:30 P.M. – Pete's Place, Krebs

Districts 6 and 7: Sunday, September 23, 6:30 P.M. – Quartz Mountain Lodge, Altus

District 9: Tuesday, September 25, 6:30 P.M. – Elk's Lodge, Woodward

Panhandle: Wednesday, September 26, 6:00 P.M. – Leann's Restaurant, Guymon

District 8: Thursday, September 27, 6:30 P.M. – Enid Symphony Center, Enid

District 5: Tuesday, November 6, 6:00 P.M. – Downtown Petroleum Club, Oklahoma City

▪ **Pharmacy Organizations Educate Legislators**

Ten national pharmacy organizations collaborated to demonstrate ways pharmacists can improve healthcare quality and decrease costs by reducing medication use problems. The collaboration, known as the "Alliance for Pharmaceutical Care", exhibited at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) meeting, August 13-15, 2001, in San Antonio, Texas. The exhibit demonstrated how pharmacists provide patient-care services to improve medication use and reduce the estimated \$177 billion spent each year by the healthcare system on drug related problems. Pharmacists performed health screenings to evaluate attendees' risk for a variety of disease states and provided valuable pharmaceutical care services including recommendations to decrease disease risk or interventions to lessen disease effects. The exhibit also emphasized collaboration among pharmacists, physicians, and other healthcare professionals to improve patients' health outcomes.

**Continuing Pharmaceutical Education News**

▪ **The Walter P. Scheffe Continuing Pharmaceutical Education Series Continues in October**

The topic for the Scheffe Series this year will be *Risk Management in Pharmacy - Preventing Medication Errors*.

Pharmacists will learn how to enhance their practices to prevent medication errors and protect their patients and themselves from the many and often disastrous repercussions of a medication error. This program will provide an opportunity for pharmacists to learn how to become dynamic forerunners of change in the arenas of management, personnel and attitude.



The program will be held October 21, 2001, at The Schusterman Center in Tulsa. Inquiries can be made by going to <http://oupharmacy.com/ce/inquiries/>.

### Lemuel Dorrance Pharmacy Museum News

#### ▪ Coca Cola and Sears Items from Toni Abl

The College of Pharmacy expresses sincere appreciation to Toni Abl for donating to the Lemuel Dorrance Pharmacy Museum a Coca Cola Puzzle in the original unopened tin and a reproduction copy of *Sears, Roebuck and Co.: Consumers Guide*, Fall 1900. The guide contains many citations about patent medicines in use at the turn of the twentieth century.

### Oklahoma Poison Control News

#### ▪ Over-The-Counter Medicine Perceived As Safe But Can Be Toxic

The Oklahoma Poison Control Center is sending out a warning to people about the common misuse of over-the-counter medicine.

"Just because drugs are available over-the-counter does not mean they are safe," said Tracy McKeown, education coordinator with the Oklahoma Poison Control Center, a program of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy and Children's Hospital at the OU MEDICAL CENTER. "Someone can take too much or give a child too much. Many adults perceive over-the-counter drugs as safe. They do not realize they can be toxic."

Over-the-counter products, like analgesics, are examples of pain relievers that can cause serious problems with the liver if not taken properly. "Many people do not realize that if the body receives a toxic amount, the effects may not become apparent right away. For example, we received a call from the mother of a young teen-ager who took an analgesic every hour for a couple of days for menstrual cramps. She is now on a liver transplant list," McKeown said.

Examples of analgesics include acetaminophen, the ingredient in Tylenol; aspirin, the ingredient in Bayer or Ecotrin; ibuprofen, the ingredient in Motrin or Advil; ketoprofen, the ingredient in Orudis; or naproxen sodium products like Aleve. Analgesics were the number one substance most frequently involved in fatalities nationally in 1999. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, analgesic exposures resulted in 340 deaths in 1999 nationwide. In Oklahoma, there were more than 2,400 analgesic exposures reported to the Oklahoma Poison Control Center last year; 1,200 of those exposures were in children under the age of 6.

Problems in children usually occur when they are given the drug too often, or for too many days, which can cause the drug to build up. Communication between caretakers is vital in preventing double doses. It is important to talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions about how much and how often to give medicine to your child.

The Oklahoma Poison Control Center also has the following tips on taking over-the-counter medicine:

- Inform your doctor of all the over-the-counter medications and herbal products you are taking. These may also interact with your prescription medications.
- Ask your pharmacist for over-the-counter products that have only the ingredients that you need. Some medications, such as cough and cold products, may give you medicine for problems you do not have.
- Check for package tampering and expiration dates. Dispose of medications by flushing the pills and liquids down the toilet or giving them to your pharmacist.
- Use over-the-counter products as directed on the package. Remember to read the warnings as well as the dosing instructions.
- Do not use over-the-counter medications if the dosing instructions or expiration date are no longer available.



- Most over-the-counter medications are intended for short-term use only. Talk to your doctor if use of a product is needed for a prolonged period.
- Remember, over-the-counter medications should be handled as wisely and safely as prescription medicines.

It is also important to take prescription medicines as directed, following your doctor's instructions exactly. Tips for taking prescription medicine include:

- Take only your medications. Taking another person's medicine may cover up your symptoms and make diagnosing your illness more difficult.
- If you need to take medications during the night, do not keep them at the bedside, especially if you have small children in your home.
- Store medicines in a cool, dry place, away from light. Unless instructed, do not store medicine in the refrigerator or bathroom.
- Before you travel, ask your pharmacist or doctor how you should adjust your medication schedule for changes in time, routine and diet. When traveling, carry your medications; do not put them in your checked luggage, glove compartment or trunk. Always have your prescription labels with you when traveling.
- If young children are present, lock up your medicines and keep them out of the reach. Remember children imitate adults, so avoid taking medicine in front of them.
- Get prescriptions filled in advance to avoid running out of medicine, which can alter your medication schedule.
- Have all your medicines reviewed by your doctor or pharmacist once a year.
- Take your medicines for the entire duration they are prescribed, even if you feel better.
- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist. Do not be afraid to ask questions.

▪ **Young Man Dies after Using a Diet Pill containing Dinitrophenol (DNP)**

The New York State Health commissioner Antonia C. Novello today warned about the use of products containing dinitrophenols or DNP as a supplement for weight loss. The warning results from a report to the Department's Pesticide Poisoning Registry on the recent death of a Long Island resident who had reportedly used DNP for four days. The young man's death was reported to the State Health Department by the Long Island Poison Control Center, which indicated that the individual apparently ingested 600 milligrams of DNP a day for four days.

Dinitrophenols are toxic to the liver, kidney and nervous system. The chemical causes hyperthermia (increased body temperature), dehydration, tachycardia (rapid heartbeat), restlessness and manic behavior and convulsions that typically signify an immediate life-threatening intoxication. There are anecdotal reports of other deaths from DNP used as a weight loss supplement.

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, DNP was sold in the 1930's in diet pills but was banned in 1938 because of severe health effects. It is currently being marketed and used by body builders, and is also advertised and marketed on the Internet. The extent of DNP use is unknown at this time.

**OUPharmTECH News**

▪ **[Have a Question? Ask an OUPharmCARE Pharmacist!](#)**

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy "[Ask an OUPharmCARE Pharmacist](#)" site has been developed to provide a convenient way for patients, healthcare providers, and the public to obtain answers to specific questions from a pharmacist. All questions are held in strict confidence by OUPharmCARE pharmacists and answers will be provided only to the e-mail address. Telephone questions will be considered based upon pharmacist availability.



**Job Openings**

- Staff Pharmacist
- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Research Assistant II